

8th U.S. Army's

ROKsteady

January-February 2006



NEW HORIZONS DAY
MPs STAYING ON TARGET
BRONZE STAR WITH VALOR AWARDED
CULINARY ARTISTS COMPETE
SOLDIER RECALLS A DEADLY DAY
19TH SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)

EXPLORING PACIFIC ASIA

ROK Steady

January-February 2006

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MPs STAYING ON TARGET

12



EXPLORING PACIFIC ASIA

22



"PARADISE ISLAND"

28



CULINARY COMPETITION

41

4 Lt. Gen. Campbell

6 Beware the gray zone

8 Notes

10 New Horizons Day

14 Bronze Star with Valor

24 South Korea

34 64 years of USO

38 19th Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)

42 Recalling a deadly day



DROPPING IN FOR TRAINING

18

LISTEN UP: 8th U.S. Army commanding general reflects on defending the ROK

By Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell
Commander, 8th U.S. Army

November 2002 was when the 8th U.S. Army colors were handed to me and when the privilege of serving as your commanding general began. April 2006 marks the time when I will relinquish the Colors to another worthy Soldier after which Diane and I will depart the "Land of the Morning Calm" and assume new roles at the U.S. Army Forces Command.

Including previous assignments, I've served in the Republic of Korea six-and-a-half years and each one presented its own set of challenges and opportunities. The Soldiers, family members and civilian employees serving the 8th U.S. Army have made tremendous contributions to our mission.

As your commanding general we have faced what I refer to as a "seminal time for the alliance" and the 8th

U.S. Army team has met these times head on.

We have continued to do what we've done for more than 53 years, which is to deter conflict on the Korean Peninsula. We've continuously improved access to training facilities, reduced our footprint in the host nation and assured a high quality of life for Soldiers and families. While making organizational changes to prepare for a move to locations south of Seoul after 2008, we've met the schedule for troop reductions with the reduction of 8,000 in 2004-2005 complete. We're on track to reduce 2,000 in 2006 and 2,500 in 2007-2008.

These reductions were connected to other decisive events including the 2nd Infantry Division's departure from all the camps in the Western Corridor. We've transferred mission responsibility for security of the Joint Security Area (JSA) from a predominantly U.S.-manned unit to a predominantly ROK-manned unit commanded by a U.S. centrally selected battalion commander.

"We have done what we've done for more than 53 years, which is to **deter conflict** on the Korean Peninsula."



In support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2nd Brigade of 2nd Infantry Division deployed to the Middle East in 2004 and subsequently moved to Fort Carson, Colo.

The 305th Quartermaster Company also deployed to the Middle East in August 2005.

These and many other movements contributed to the Army's transformation and our own because they set the conditions for us to reorganize the 2nd Infantry Division and two theater aviation brigades into a modular division headquarters (formerly, UEx), a heavy brigade combat team, a combat aviation brigade, and a fires brigade at no expense to the Army.

During a time when attention was on reductions, we also added to our ability to deter aggression on the Peninsula. We received, stationed and integrated the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade (PAC-3) from Fort Bliss, Texas and Fort Lewis, Wash. to Osan Air Force Base to enhance the anti-missile capability of ROK-U.S. Alliance forces. The 35th ADA spearheads the only "rotational unit" program in Korea and has conducted two

seamless and transparent rotations of four firing batteries each (approximately 600 total Soldiers) in the last 12 months.

Our command is also blessed with distinctive unit level and individual achievements. In March, 8th U.S. Army commands competed in the Army Culinary Arts Competition and for the first time in the 30-year history, championed the title during the Army's annual event held at Fort Lee, Va. 8th U.S. Army & 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) 92G team crushed the competition of over 14 installations with a 20-point lead in all categories.

For the second year in a row, 8th U.S. Army units and individuals beat the entire Army hands down in the annual Community Relations Awards for Excellence, marking not only the hard work across the command to support the USFK Good Neighbor Program but also the importance building long lasting relationships means to the success of the ROK-US Alliance.

Tours in Korea had the entire Army convinced that personnel turbulence from one-year tours would remain status quo.

However, through the Assignment Incentive Program we've retained more than 12,700 Soldiers on the Peninsula. This has resulted in reduced personnel turbulence, improved readiness, and decreased change of station costs.

8th U.S. Army has also contributed to the health of our Army by recording the lowest first term attrition by any major command in the Army and the only major subordinate command to exceed all retention goals in every category.

As an Army and a Nation at war, we've met the challenge to support operations in Iraq with professional scrutiny and obligation. We've received, assessed, and responded to numerous requests for forces. From specialist to colonel, team to battalion and from all the branches (Combat Arms, Combat Support and Combat Service/Support), 8th U.S. Army has answered the call and remained "Ready to Fight Tonight!"

The future looks bright. The security of the strongest alliance in the world rests largely on the shoulders of Soldiers, ROK and U.S., and the tradition of excellence I was charged in sustaining is ready to be entrusted with a new command team.

Diane and I extend to you all our best wishes for a prosperous and peaceful future. Thank you for all you do.

Pacific Victors!

LEADERS: BEWARE THE GRAY ZONE

By Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Wheeler

Commander Sergeant Major,
UNC/CFC/USFK/8th U.S. Army

Leaders often selectively choose which orders to follow or which standards to meet! These decisions of convenience cause them to fall into a category I like to define as the “Gray Zone!” Each of us understands the following of orders and the meeting of standards is a black-and-white business...you either DID or you DID NOT! When the colors black and white are mixed, you get gray!

A discussion and review of our Army’s Values are important as one considers the topic of this article. The Army, as an institution, is one based on values. As a values-based organization, it prides itself on its members knowing and abiding by the values it insists all members prescribe to. Values tell us what we need to be, every day, in every action we take. Army values form the identity of America’s Army, the solid rock upon which everything else stands. They are the glue that binds us together as members of a noble profession. They make the whole much greater than the sum of the parts. They are non-negotiable; they apply to everyone all the time and in every situation.

The Army has identified the seven values it feels are most important to it as an institution and defines each for its Soldiers benefit. They are:

LOYALTY: Bears true faith and allegiance to the US Constitution, the Army, the unit, and the soldier

DUTY: Fulfills their obligations

RESPECT: Treats people as they should be treated

SELFLESS SERVICE: Puts the welfare of the nation, the Army, and subordinates before their own

HONOR: Lives up to all the Army values

INTEGRITY: Does what’s right - legally and morally; even when no one is watching

PERSONAL COURAGE: Faces fear, danger, and adversity (physical and moral)

In order to be a good leader, one must first be a good follower. As Noncommissioned and Commissioned Officers within a values based institution, it is important to remember two of our most important responsibilities as Soldiers are: 1) Following orders, and 2) Meeting

standards. Leaders, who fall prey to a selective process of which orders to follow or standards to meet, demonstrate little concern for the Army as an institution or for setting the proper example for their subordinates.

One might ask, “So what does this have to do with Army Values?” In a nutshell, EVERYTHING! If we as leaders voluntarily decide to continue our careers as a member of the Army, we simultaneously prescribe to the Army’s values. Simply stated, we demonstrate by our action of reenlisting or swearing our oath of office, that the Army’s values are important to us as well.

Of the Army’s Seven Values, the selective obedience to orders and meeting of standards touches on all of them, but falls primarily within two: 1) Honor, and 2) Integrity.

As it applies to HONOR, FM22-100, Army Leadership, states it best. *“Honor provides the ‘moral compass’ for character and personal conduct in the army and....that most recognize instinctively those with a keen sense of right and wrong, those who live such that their words and deeds are above reproach, It goes on to say... that Honor holds Army Values together while at the same time being a value itself. Together, Army values describe the foundation essential to develop leaders of character. It means demonstrating an understanding of what’s right. Each of us promised to do this when we took our oath of office or enlistment. Paragraph 2-29 of FM 22-100 states: How you conduct yourself and meet obligations defines who you are as a person...for you as an Army leader, honor means putting Army values above self-interest, above career and comfort. This honor is essential for creating the bond of trust among members of the Army.”*

INTEGRITY: Again, FM 22-100 says it best: *“People of integrity consistently act according to principles—not just what might work at the moment. Leaders of integrity make their principles known and consistently act in accordance with them. The Army requires leaders of integrity who possess high moral standards and are honest in word and deed. Being honest means being truthful and upright all the time, despite pressures to do otherwise. Having integrity means being both morally complete and true to yourself. As an Army leader, you’re honest to yourself by committing to and consistently living Army values; you’re honest to others by not presenting yourself or your actions as anything other than what they are. Army leaders say what they mean and do what they say...People of integrity do the right thing not because it’s convenient or because they have no choice. They choose the right*

"Discipline is the soul of the military. It **makes** small numbers seem formidable; procures **success** to the weak and esteem to all. ..."

- Gen. George Washington

thing because their character permits no less.

Leaders can’t hide what they do: that’s why you must carefully decide how you act. As an Army leader, you’re always on display...However, if you’re to be an Army leader and a person of integrity, these values must reinforce, not contradict, Army values.”

No one in our Army expects us to be perfect. Perfection IS NOT the issue of discussion here. To make mistakes is totally natural. The Army as an institution understands this and fosters a climate that allows leaders to grow and learn without fear. What IS the topic of discussion in this article is when leaders knowingly, willingly, and selectively choose which orders or standards to follow and which ones to not.

Gen. George Washington said that, *“Discipline is the soul of the Army...”* If true, then those who enter the **Gray Zone** are undisciplined. Fair assumption? I say it is. We have already proven those who enter the *Gray Zone* do not live the Army’s Values. As it pertains to discipline, all one has to do is to consider Gen. George S. Patton’s understanding and definition of the subject (summarized):

1. There is only one sort of discipline; perfect discipline. Men cannot have good battle discipline and poor

administrative discipline.

2. Discipline is based on pride in the profession of arms, on meticulous attention to details, and on mutual respect and confidence. Discipline must be a habit so ingrained that it is stronger than the excitement of battle or the fear of death.

3. Discipline can only be obtained when all officers are so imbued with the sense of their awful obligation to their men and to their country that they cannot tolerate negligence. Officers who fail to correct errors or to praise excellence are valueless in peace and dangerous misfits in war.

4. Officers must assert themselves by example and by voice. They must be preeminent in courage, deportment, and dress.

5. One of the primary purposes of discipline is to produce alertness. A man who is so lethargic that he fails to salute will fall an easy victim to an enemy.

In summary, the Army will never turn into an “Army of Options.” Our subordinates know when we have entered into the *Gray Zone*. They know when we do we violate not only our Army’s Values, but our need for a disciplined Army as well. Leaders at every level would do well to **“BEWARE THE GRAY ZONE!”**





Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced today that the U.S. President has nominated Maj. Gen.(P) David P. Valcourt, United States Army, for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as Commanding General, 8th United States Army/Chief of Staff, United Nations Command/Combined Forces Command/United States Forces Korea. Valcourt is currently serving as Special Assistant to the Commanding General, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. The change of command ceremony is scheduled for April 11.



During a ceremony in early January at the 8th U.S. Army Headquarters Building, the winners of the 2005 8th U.S. Army Supply and Maintenance Excellence Competitions were presented with awards by Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell, the 8th U.S. Army commander. The winners were:

Supply Excellence

72nd Ordnance Company., 20th Support Group

HHC, 8th Military Police Brigade

Supply Point 60, 19th Sustainment Command (E)

520th Maintenance Company., 19th Sustainment Command (E)

Maintenance Excellence

520th Maintenance Company

Pusan Storage Facility

568th Medical Company

121st General Hospital

Independence Day

March 1, 1919, marked the beginning of the Korean Independence Movement. On this day, independence fighters announced Korea's declaration of independence from Japanese colonialism. In response, Japanese police and military forces killed and injured thousands of unarmed protestors.

Arbor Day

Because of the devastation and deforestation resulting from the Korean War, the Korean government designated April 5 as Arbor Day and made it a time for all the citizens to plant trees and other plants. Decades later, the forests have returned. Nowadays, citizens still plant trees and flowers and clean up the surrounding hilltops and mountain areas, and the day serves as a reminder to respect nature and the environment.

8th U.S. Army Bataan Memorial Death March qualifiers

Feb. 18, 163 Soldiers gathered at the Hanson Field House in Camp Casey, Tongducheon to participate in the 2006 8th U.S. Army Bataan Memorial Death March Qualifier. The Soldiers were required to wear their battle dress uniform, a minimum 35-pound rucksack, and full canteen at start. The top five men and women teams qualified as the 8th U.S. Army teams that will participate in the Bataan Memorial Road March at White Sands, N.M., March 26, 2006.

Within an hour and 39 minutes of the start the first runner, Cpt. Arthur Mathisen, 121st Gen. Hospital came across the finish line. "It's always fun to win," said Mathisen.

The winning team came from Daegu. The five Soldiers Soldiers called themselves the "188th MP Original Warfighters". "We practiced every morning," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Maisel, 728th Military Police Battalion.

Chinese yellow dust

During Korea's spring months, fine dust from the Gobi Desert in China and Mongolia floats across the ocean, reaching as far as the southwestern United States. Until recently, the dust posed few health risks. With the increases in pollution levels, however, mixed sand and pollutants can pose a serious threat to those who breathe in any great amount. Soldiers are recommended to stay indoors as much as possible during this time in order to prevent excessive inhalation.

Red Cloud CID aids in black market case

2005 ended on a high note for the Criminal Investigation Department here in Korea. Dec. 30 two agents with CID were rewarded for their work on a black market case. The award given by the Korean Custom's Agency acknowledges the efforts of WO1 Unsil Lee with the Camp Red Cloud CID and Ms. Haeng-Suk Yun, a civilian, for their help in the recent case where 18 Korean nationals were caught in a black market scheme that involved 56,000 cases of beer worth about \$1.5 million.

While the case fell under South Korean jurisdiction due to the nationalities of those involved, CID played an integral part in catching the criminals.

"We helped coordinate the investigation, mostly by providing documentation and assisting in what they needed. All of the subjects were Korean, so they were prosecuted in the Korean system. We aided them in getting the case built for the prosecutor," said Lt. Col. Jan Apo, battalion commander for all of CID in Korea and Japan.

The punishment for selling items on the black market can vary. Korean nationals are turned over to the Korean



56,000 cases of beer were confiscated by officials. Photo by Pfc. Fay Jakymec

government, but for Soldiers the punishment is up to their command.

"For a U.S. Soldier who is involved in something like this it most likely would be an Article 92 violation- failure to obey an order or a regulation because that is where this is covered in. The exact punishment would depend on each individual commander and what they deem [appropriate]. It could range from a court martial to a counseling statement. It just kind of depends on that commander, the level of involvement - all of those different things dealing with our justice system," said Apo.

New Horizons Day

The semi-annual briefing brought 8th U.S. Army Soldiers, civilian employees, and Korean Augmentees to the U.S. Army together Jan. 10, to address military readiness, safety issues, cultural differences and the unit's

By Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
8th U.S. Army PAO

"The training you will receive today will help us all set the conditions for mission readiness and mission success," Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell, 8th U.S. Army, commander said. "Our mission remains the same: to deter aggression and if deterrence fails, to help defend our valued ally, the Republic of Korea just as we did over 50 years ago."

Campbell uses New Horizon's Day to educate 8th Army personnel about existing military programs that assist in accomplishing the mission in Korea, while maintaining a positive American presence.

At the Yongsan U.S. Army Garrison, more than 400 servicemembers in Balboni Theatre and 100 senior officers in the 8th Army Headquarters Building's Van Fleet Room viewed briefings about the KATUSA and Good Neighbor Program, Chaplains' religious accommodations, and winter drivers' safety training.

Servicemembers watched video presentations about traditional cultural exchanges, contemporary Korean life, and a History Channel presentation about the Korean War complete with the history of the Demilitarized Zone.

The "hottest" topics addressed and discussed were the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and reporting policy, the revised version of the USFK Prostitution and Human Trafficking policies, and the U.S. Forces Korea off-limits and curfew violations.

"I'm usually that person that picks up the Soldiers from the (military police) station at three or four in the morning for missing curfew," 1st Sgt. Michael Darbison the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Troop Command Korea first sergeant said as he introduced himself.

"One of the main things I see when I get these Soldiers is a lack of a battle buddy—they don't have that someone to drag them in when it's that time," said Darbison. "These off-limits areas and the curfew are designed to keep you safe and out of harms way. You need to ensure you have a battle buddy when you go out at night simply to keep each other safe and out of trouble," he said.

Unlike what many Americans may be used to, the Korean society is reportedly more than 5,000 years old—steeped in centuries of tradition—compared to America



Maj. Robert Hynes, HHC, USATC-K commander speaks to his Soldiers about using common sense. Photo by Cpl. Lee, Jung Woo

which declared its independence only 230 years ago.

Though the two cultures differ greatly, when asked about some of the similarities between American and Korean culture, servicemembers called out many comparisons such as metropolitan renewal, an aggressive international music and film scene, numerous professional sports organizations coupled with dedicated team fans and trendy casual dress clothes.

"All leaders and supervisors need to constantly reinforce the importance of that common sense behavior when they are off a military base simply having good manners and try to attempt to speak to them their own language, it can have an amazing affect in gaining their trust and confidence and giving them good impressions of the United States," Maj. Robert Hynes, HHC, USATC-K, commander said.

Hynes has served three tours in Korea and is married to a Korean citizen. Crimes against the Korean people is one of his zero-tolerance policies, and he is more than willing to prosecute Soldiers who cross that threshold.

"It is disappointing that we have people like that in our ranks and disheartening that we find ourselves in these situations, obviously because the people involved in the crime are wearing our uniform. Their actions create an impression on the Korean people of (Americans) as a whole and unfortunately it's a negative impression."

Good Neighbor Program.

By Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
8th U.S. Army PAO

Many American's join the Army each year simply to travel and experience foreign countries while serving their country.

"I was excited when I was told I was coming to Korea because it was actually my first duty (assignment) choice," Pfc. Benjamin Motyka, 8th Army Chaplain's Office, personnel clerk said.

Though it was his first time in Korea, Motyka from Ossian, Indiana said his great uncle flew reconnaissance here with the U.S. Army Air Corp during the Korea War.

"(My great-uncle) said he had a good time and that Koreans were

genuinely nice people," Motyka said. He's right because since the short time I've been here (Korean's) have been really nice to me."

Some servicemembers, like Motyka, have only been in Korea for less than three months and the first Koreans they ever met were the KATUSAs from their office.

"The KATUSAs in my shop took me down town, and they really took care of me," he said. "They took me to a Korean restaurant and showed me when you sit down at the table the senior person does the serving."

During the briefing a video presentation highlighted some Korean cultural cues least known among U.S. servicemembers. For instance, removing

shoes when entering houses, bowing to elders rather than shaking hands, and using two hands when taking or receiving items from elders; all of which Americans are not accustomed to. For KATUSAs this struck a cord because many said their impressions of Americans prior to meeting them was limited to television, motion pictures or second-hand knowledge from friends.

Aware of that, the 8th Army command appeals to all Soldiers to behave as a guest in a foreign country.

"Actually, I hadn't thought about Americans before I joined the KATUSA program, but I heard from my friend who studied in the U.S. that Americans are rude and arrogant because the U.S.

is one of the strongest countries in the world," said KATUSA Sgt. Jo, Yung Yul, 8th U.S. Army Engineer, plans and operations NCO. "(My friend) said some Americans look down on Asians."

"After I met Americans who work in my office, I realized what many Koreans think Americans are just prejudices," he said. "I met a lot of good Americans, and they were so nice. They tried to learn some Korean so that they can understand Korea and socialize with many Korean friends."

Lt Col. David Ward, USATC-K, commander, echoed Campbell's challenge to tour South Korea and maximize 8th Army involvement with the Korea Good Neighbor Program.

"I describe the Korea-America alliance as unique in the world. No other country trusts its most precious resource—its young men—to the United States to serve in our Army under American command."

"America has friends and allies in the world but the US/KATUSA Soldier alliance is more like a blended family," Ward said. "You need to understand one another in order to be successful. The Good Neighbor Program allows that understanding to develop so that the family can get along and accomplish its mission. We are going to go to war together and fight together. We need to understand one another."

"We can't form our impressions or understanding based on the media or protestors. The Good Neighbor Program brings about individual to individual understanding which strengthens the unit. It is much more than just partnership or interoperability training. It creates the bonds as strong as a family."



Lt. Col. David Ward discussed the Good Neighbor Program. Photo by Cpl. Lee, Jung Woo



Staying on target

By Sgt. Sarah Scully

8th Military Police Brigade PAO

Weaving through a maze of rooms and hallways, military police from a Special Reaction Team double-tap the bad guys and leave the innocent unharmed.

Part of a Close Quarter Battle Course training exercise at Camp Casey, the 94th MP Battalion's SRT practiced entering and clearing rooms Feb. 27.

The seven Soldiers and two KATUSAs went through individually and in pairs as a more experienced SRT member guided them through the shoothouse.

Upon entering a room, the MPs had to immediately identify themselves as police, differentiate between the aggressor and the victim and shoot the aggressor.

"It readies their minds and bodies to get used to shooting in closed areas at close range," said Sgt. Ryan Hebner, entry team leader.

The SRT typically practices this training monthly, and they took the opportunity to introduce these elements to new Soldiers who recently joined their ranks.

"For my first time through, it was a great experience," said Sgt. Lucas Schrull, who joined SRT about four months ago. "It builds confidence in your teammates because they're carrying a weapon behind you."

They'll use that confidence during special incidents the SRT handle, such as hostage situations, drug arrests, building clearing and missions for important dignitaries.

By practicing now, they'll be ready if and when an incident occurs.

"There's a high probability that it will happen – it's just a matter of time," said Staff Sgt. Lindsay Crudup, NCO in charge. "It's the team's responsibility to be ready when it happens."

Using both M9s and M4s, the MPs practiced with dry fire and simmunitions before moving on to live rounds.

Their fellow SRT members walked along the system of catwalks overlooking the shoothouse, monitoring the training progress.

By watching individual Soldiers maneuver from room to room, the MPs got a better idea of what to expect when they got a chance to complete the training.

Hearing comments such as "stay tactical" and "don't stop in the doorway," the SRT members gained knowledge they'll use for the shoothouse training and for missions in Iraq.

Entry drills are more precise, accurate and selective in targets than other training, and preparing the Soldiers for future deployments to Iraq in their military career is an important part of SRT training, said Crudup.



Staff Sgt. Lindsay Crudup, noncommissioned officer in charge, looks over the shoulder of Cpl. Ko Hyun-woong as he concentrates on his training and marksmanship. Photo by Pfc. Tjechia Price



OPERATION PHANTOM FURY

2ID SOLDIER AWARDED BRONZE STAR WITH VALOR

Story and photos by Spc. Timothy Dinneen, 2nd Infantry Division PAO

As he was rolling to Fallujah, Iraq, inside the iron belly of a tank, it was the butterflies in his stomach that seemed to carry him along the journey. It was a cool November night in 2004 as he approached the city. The 22-year-old recalled not hearing the fighting ahead but of the thoughts racing through his mind.

“This is *it*. This is what it was like on **Fox News.**”

- Spc. Rudy Roby

The city was immune to the darkness of night as it was lit by luminescent tracer rounds flying overhead and explosions from ariel bombardments and field artillery shells. That's when the call came in from the tank commander, "All right, we're moving in." Operation Phantom Fury was underway.

Spc. Rodney Roby, 2ID surgeon's office, was presented his Bronze Star Medal with Valor by 2ID Command Sgt. Maj. James Benedict Nov. 21 for exceptionally meritorious achievement during that operation.



The citation on Roby's award states that Roby's tank came in close contact with four insurgents who engaged the tank with heavy rifle fire and rocket-propelled grenades. "While under direct fire and without regard for his personal safety," the citation reads, "he engaged the insurgents with small arms fire and hand grenades, killing three and wounding the fourth. His actions single-handedly eliminated the threat and ensured the safety of his crew and vehicle."

Roby said before the operation began, Soldiers with Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 63rd Armor, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division were hyping each other up as if preparing to take the field before a major football game. They had no illusions of what they were about to face because he was told by superiors the city was overrun with insurgents. However, Roby spent time relaxing in bed remaining calm and thinking about the upcoming mission.

"I don't take everything so seriously. I'm a more relaxed and mellow guy," Roby said.

"I wasn't scared of getting shot or dying - it was more anxiety of not knowing what was going to happen. There are only so many things you can do to prepare yourself for something like that. All you have to do is your job and put your training to action," Roby added.

He attributed his cool demeanor to the island culture where he was born. The "little paradise" island of Pohnapei is part of the Federated States of Micronesia. He said everyone knows each other there and everything is tranquil. Furthermore, he said listening to his grandfather's stories of how he cared for his family as Japanese and U.S. planes went at it overhead during World War II gave him a sense of service.

"I try to think of what my grandpa did in the past and use that to influ-

ence my decisions in the present," Roby said.

As Operation Phantom Fury commenced Roby said he hoped he didn't see anyone popping up because although he knew he was ready to fire at insurgents he really didn't want to kill anybody.

"I knew the mission was to take back the city from insurgents and that leaflets were dropped before we arrived telling civilians to leave so if I saw anyone I knew they were probably the bad guys," Roby said.

When contact with the insurgents intensified, the tank commander began his mantra. "Keep feeding that gun, keep your head down, keep your 360 degree awareness, and continue forward, if there's a wall go through it."

Roby said he was exposed chest high out of one of the tank's hatches as he scanned the area looking for "hot spots." The attacks seemed constant, remembers Roby, days blended together and it was the adrenaline that kept them going.

"Then there was the enemy," said Roby. "He was so close I could actually see his eyes. I looked at him and he looked at me and bullets were whizzing by my head the whole time."

Roby returned fire with his M4 rifle when he saw the whites of their eyes. Roby said he concentrated on the man with the rocket-propelled grenade. Hot brass expelled from Roby's weapon burning the TC as the casings fell into his hatch.

"What are you firing at?" yelled the TC and ordered a cease-fire, as he could not see the enemy from his protected position in the tank. The gunner was also blinded by "tunnel vision" only able to see straight ahead down the narrow cannon. Roby directed the gunner to lower the cannon and as he did so the TC and the gunner had a visual of the enemy and began to "open up." The TC ordered Roby

to get down as the enemy rounds were hitting closer.

"I was a little bull headed because I kept my head up. I couldn't see anything with my head down," Roby explained.

The TC took a grenade and asked Roby if he knew how to operate it. "Roger," replied Roby, and threw the grenade for a strike in the direction of the four insurgents who were hiding behind stones spraying rounds blindly.

"There was an explosion and that was it," Roby said.

"I sat down inside the tank while there was still indirect fighting going on around me and played the situation over in my mind," Roby said.

He said the experience had changed him because it has given him a more profound appreciation on the delicate nature of life.

"One second they were there. The next, three people had died and one was wounded," Roby said.

The fighting didn't end with that grenade throw that day. There were still missions in the city to be accomplished. The Soldiers in Roby's crew drove on to complete them. An aspect of Roby's character that didn't change was his ability to remain cool under pressure.

Others may have seen enough battle in Iraq in 2004 however, Roby chose to reenlist. He said he felt confident that if he could make it through Operation Phantom Fury he could handle anything. He also felt because of his experiences he would be able to help younger or inexperienced Soldiers handle what the Army may ask of them.

"When I got back to a secure area I saw new Soldiers with the same questions and concerns as I had when arriving. It made me think I could help them and tell them to relax and they would reach the finish line soon," Roby said.



Special Forces drop in for combined training

Story and photos by Pfc. Daniel Love, 8th U.S. Army PAO

In order stay on the cutting edge of wartime capability, Special Forces Soldiers are required to constantly train in different environments. While this calls for them to frequently travel to training sites, the experience can prove invaluable during a time of war.





Leaders of the Fort Lewis, Washington based 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group toured and trained in the Korean theater Feb. 6-10 after a year of deployment in Afghanistan to re-familiarize themselves with their primary mission. One of the biggest joint training events of the visit was a balloon-powered airborne jump at Maesori Range Feb. 13.

The ROK and U.S. jumpers used each other's equipment, jumpmasters and procedures in order to increase interoperability between the forces. It quickly became apparent that they had a lot in common in the way of airborne training and capability.

"It was a good time for the guys in

the battalion to come to Korea and familiarize themselves with the ROK special forces training apparatus," said Lt. Col Kirk Nilsson, 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces group commander. "They're part of our airborne brotherhood. This builds esprit de corps, camaraderie and confidence between the two forces."

While a balloon jump is not a tactic used during wartime, it is used to maintain airborne Soldiers' insertion capability.

"It keeps our guys comfortable with controlling the canopy and landing," said Nilsson. "The advantage of it is, it's here and we don't need an aircraft, so we don't rely on air crews. It's a very efficient way to cycle a lot of jumpers through in a short amount of time."



Soldiers move across the drop zone to a waiting balloon.



Soldiers prepare their parachutes for rewinding.



Soldiers exchanged ROK and U.S. airborne badges.



A ROK Special Operations Soldier stuffs his parachute into its bag.

In the Korean theater, space is often a training restriction. Maesari drop zone is not a large target for jumpers, coupled with that was the fact that it was frozen, uneven and dotted with thorn bushes. However, the jumpers took off without hesitation, tackling the terrain with humor and gusto.

"We're glad to have them here and they're doing a good job," said Lt. Col. Bart Shreve, Special Operations Command-Korea director of operations. "A lot of these new captains haven't been to Korea, so they have to get used to it."

While the jump was standard fare for the battle-hardened Soldiers, it was a valuable opportunity to connect with their brothers in arms. After exchanging their service's jump badges, many of them said that they

hope to return and train together again.

"Since we're often busy with other deployments and missions, we wanted to take an opportunity to make sure we're closely connected with the wartime operations plan," said Maj. Ian Rice, an officer for 2nd Bn., 1st SF Group. "It's very important that we continue to train in Korea and keep a strong connection with our ROK special forces counterparts. Every time we get the chance, we enjoy working with them, continuing to build the bonds that were made in the past."

Treasure your tour in Pacific Asia

With so much to see and do while stationed overseas, just figuring out where to go can seem like a daunting task in itself. So pages 24-37 offer a little information to get you started. From South Korea to Saipan, and even some information on what the ZISO has to offer.



The Korea experience, **Getting more than a barracks-eye view**

By Pfc. Daniel Love
8th U.S. Army PAO

A year overseas can be well spent and full of adventure, or wasted within the four walls of a drab barracks room.

South Korea is full of chances to have a unique experience. For a country approximately the same size as Indiana, it is surprisingly diverse and full of character.

Many years ago, travel between the provinces was difficult and dangerous, so each province developed its own accent and mindset. While they all speak (roughly) the same language, easygoing residents of Busan on the south coast are a unique crowd from the busy and more high-strung urbanites of Seoul.



A VIEW FROM KWANAKSAN IN SEOUL



GOEJE ISLAND



KWANAK MOUNTAIN



CENTRAL SEOUL



GYEONGJU

The raw, jagged rocks of Soraksan near the ocean in the Northeast are a far stretch from the gentle rolling hills and rice farms of Gwangju in the Southwest. With all the travel opportunities in Korea, one doesn't need to leave the country to satiate wanderlust, but that doesn't mean it's not an option.

Incheon airport can be a gateway to the hemisphere. With a quick trip to the USO or travel office, tickets for just about any kind of venture can be acquired. A Japanese hot springs tour, a Chinese tea tasting tour, a Thailand beach tour, an Australian outback tour, a Hong Kong metropolis tour; if you have the time and imagination, the experience is waiting.

For the less ambitious, Seoul is still a big city to see. There are enough weekends in a year to get a feel for the quickly growing hotspots, the eccentric residents, and the modern urban Americanized culture with strong hints of a culture that once resided in its place. The first big step is getting out of Itaewon. Next, talk to Koreans (KATUSAS are great for this) as much as possible in order to gain an understanding of its people and mind set. The locals are usually more than happy to take you to the best places in the city. Korea and its residents may seem odd and foreign at first, but learning a little bit of the language will take you a long way toward a very rewarding and entertaining tour.

One day, people will ask, 'What was Korea like? What did you do? What did you see?' So go out. Take the trip of a lifetime so when you're old and gray, you will remember more than just four barracks walls.



NAMHANSANSEONG

From sweaters and boots to sandals and swim suits:

Enjoy surf, sand in Saipan

Story and photos By Cpl. Sadie Bleistein
8th U.S. Army PAO

Picture palm trees slowly dancing in warm breezes, coconut shells decorating the white sandy ground beneath and clear blue water melting into the edge of the sand. This is the sight of Saipan's scenery and it is only a plane ride away.

When I walked into the travel office, there were countless fliers for a variety of travel packages. I wanted warm weather, and I wanted to be able to travel during a four-day "holiday" weekend. The word that appealed to me most was "Paradise Island," also known as Saipan.



Bird Island is known for its nesting grounds.



American Memorial Park was dedicated to the more than 3,000 Soldiers who died during the invasion of the island during World War II.



A view of the bright and colorful coastline on the way back from Suicide Cliff.

The four-day Saipan package included roundtrip airfare and hotel accommodations. It also included free transportation to and from the hotel, wind surfing, snorkeling, scuba diving lessons and a water park.

The flight from Incheon International Airport to the sunny shores of Saipan is four and a half to five hours.

My body almost went into shock once I stepped off the plane into Saipan. Just five hours ago I was bundled up in Korea, now I am surrounded by warm breezes carrying the sweet scent of the sea.

I was in paradise; palm trees, clear waters, warm air and the sound of the sea slowly lapping the shore. I laid on the sand and looked upward and saw a shooting star blaze across the clear night sky.

The next morning I woke to the sounds of Rubert Holmes' "Escape" (you know, the piña colada song). I threw open the balcony doors overlooking the water park and hotel grounds. Kids were swimming and playing on gigantic floatation devices shaped like crabs and snakes, and happy music played from a pool bar. After a complimentary breakfast, I decided to take a stroll along the shore. I found a beach loaded with exotic seashells, coral, palm trees and coconuts creating the perfect tropical atmosphere.

Here I am snorkeling in January. The hotel provided

all the snorkel gear including fins and a container of bread to feed the fish. It was like swimming in a giant fish tank full of unnaturally bright colored fish and live coral, which ate out of my hands.

There were three outdoor bar/restaurants to eat at, I could've even had my piña coladas or margaritas delivered to my beach chair while soaking up some rays. And the best part of these three bars was the happy-hour schedule. One was from 5 to 7 p.m., the second bar was from 7 to 9 p.m. and the third one was from 9 to 11 p.m., 50 percent off all drinks and appetizers! And if you are active military, you receive 20 percent off all meals, drinks and even gift shop items...all of the time. It was great and so military friendly.

And the staff—from the lifeguard to the bartender to the wind surfing instructor—was so polite and friendly. But hey, who wouldn't be happy as a lifeguard on a tropical island.

The sky was illuminated with the deepest reds and purples I have ever seen. And the blue water reflected the colors of the sky.

The next day I spent touring the island. There is a lot of military history on Saipan's soil. I was able to walk in an actual command post carved out of stone in a mountain.

I visited Bonzai Cliff where the water was deep, but still piercingly blue and the waves crashed at the bottom of the cliff spraying mist back into the ocean. I also went to the Grotto which is a beautiful sunken pool connected to the ocean by underwater passages. It looks like a giant cave. The sunlight shining on the ocean outside the cave gives the water its amazing deep blue color. The Grotto is one of Saipan's best diving spots. Locals who wanted to swim here used to shimmy down a rope, but there are now steep concrete stairs.

There is just so much to see on this tropical island, the list goes on and on. So if you're having seasonal depression or are just looking to get out and travel, Saipan is the spot.



The Grotto, a sunken pool creating a cave, is one of Saipan's best diving spots.

Looks can be deceiving...

"Paradise" Island was once a blood-soaked battlefield

Compiled by
Sgt. Christopher Fincham
8th U.S. Army PAO

Part of the Northern Marianas Islands, Saipan is home to clean air, sunny skies, palm trees and clear blue water. A little more than sixty years ago however, it was a major strategic point of interest during World War II.

Located some 3,715 miles from Pearl Harbor, (1,485 miles from Tokyo) it served as the headquarters for the Japanese Naval Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo in 1944. At the time Saipan was a fueling and supply station for Japan's Imperial Navy.

Capturing the island was key for the allies because from the small island, U.S. forces would be able to launch attacks on Japan itself. Heavily fortified, Saipan belonged to the Northern Marianas Islands as one of three island chains, which made up the last Japanese defense in the Pacific.

June 13, 1944 the air bombardment of Saipan began.

Bombers were meant to ease resistance for the landing forces who would be going ashore a few days later. Nearby islands Tinian and Guam were also hit to make sure that support could not be supplied by forces on those islands. The renowned Navajo code talkers were used to call in artillery on the Japanese positions. Their part in the Battle of Saipan was immortalized in the movie "Windtalkers."

Nine days after the invasion of Normandy, the landings began.

At dawn June 15, 1944, Operation Forager, commanded by Marine Lt. Gen. Holland Smith, began along a four-mile length of beach on the western coast. Transports assembled offshore as fire support vessels and aircraft began a vigorous pre-landing bombardment. Less than an hour later the island's beaches were stormed by 8,000 Marines in 600 tracked amphibious landing crafts which were supported by 150 armored landing crafts operating as light tanks.

The U.S. commanders knew that they needed a way to bring in larger landing crafts to deliver more men to the island. Two lieutenants, Benson and Hardin, found a channel to the beach which proved crucial to the mission's success. Finding the channel allowed larger craft to bring in more Marines as well as much needed supplies.

Nonetheless, they faced stiff resistance from the 30,000 Japanese forces on the island. Losses were high for the invading U.S. forces and the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines had four different commanders before nightfall.

By the end of the day U.S. forces had sustained more than 2,000 casualties during the landing alone.

The second day equipment was able to be unloaded and the U.S. Army's 27th Infantry Division landed. Commanded by Maj. Gen. Ralph Smith, the 27th ID began moving toward Aslito Airfield.

Without the possibility of being

re-supplied from the neighboring islands, Japanese Lt. Gen. Yoshitsugu Saito began to feel Saipan would fall. He organized his men around the highest point on the island, Mount Tapotchau, in an attempt to stall the U.S. forces.

The Japanese used the rough terrain to their advantage and hid in caves in order to ambush the advancing troops.

U.S. flamethrower combat teams eventually solved that predicament.

The fighting was fierce and intense. The terrain of the north end of Saipan was described by one officer as "a nightmare of sheer cliffs and precipitous hills," and the fighting was characterized by the use of the flamethrower, satchel charge, grenade and bulldozer. Many instances of hand-to-hand combat arose because of many suicidal charges of trapped Japanese troops.

Two more infamous days of destruction were June 19 and 20, which became known as "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot." Japanese air power had been called in to help refute the American forces on the island. Over the two days the Japanese lost 476 planes, 445 airmen and three carriers were sunk. American losses, by contrast, were only 130 planes.

July 7 it became clear to Saito that they would not be able to hold Saipan. He ordered one of the largest banzai (suicide) attacks of the war. Banzai attacks were offensives staged with no regard to casualties. The attack lasted for 15 hours and the combined num-

ber of casualties climbed to 30,000.

After the attack Saito ordered the remainder of his men to follow him in committing suicide. After having his attendant shoot him, the general's men then ran off the edge of a cliff in an attempt to keep their honor by not becoming prisoners.

Believing the propaganda spread by the Japanese forces that the American forces would rape and kill anyone they captured, some 22,000 Japanese civilians later followed the suicidal soldiers over the edge. Years later these fateful cliffs were named Suicide Cliff and Banzai Cliff.

Remnants of Japanese forces remained in hiding in the various caves on the island. Japanese army Captain Sakeo Oba and his men remained in the mountains until they surrendered on Dec. 1, 1945.

Shortly thereafter both Tinian and Guam also fell to allied forces.

As expected, the islands proved important to American strategy when on Aug. 6, 1945 the Enola Gay, a B-52 Superfortress bomber, left Tinian for Japan. The plane's bombing of Hiroshima was the first time an atomic bomb had been used in a war. It brought a quick end to the costly war and remains a very controversial tactic even today.

A Japanese admiral summed up the fall of Saipan, "Our war was lost with the loss of Saipan. I feel it was a decisive battle."



A cannon used by the Japanese Imperial Army during WW II sits in front of their final command post which was carved into the side of a mountain below suicide cliff. (Background) A view from the edge of suicide cliff. Photos by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein



Participants navigate through rapids during a USO white-water rafting trip. *Courtesy photo*

USO: 64 years of serving Soldiers, families

By Pfc. Fay Jakymec
8th U.S. Army PAO

Over the course of 64 years the United Services Organization has had an integral part in providing morale support to the men and women of the armed forces and their families.

With locations at Camp Kim, Moyer Recreation Center on Yongsan post, Camp Casey, Camp Humphries, Osan and welcoming personnel at In-chon Airport, the USO network has spread significantly since 1953 when they first started establishing themselves on the Peninsula at the end of the Korean War.



The YMCA, YWCA, National Catholic Community Service, National Jewish Welfare Board, the Traveler's Aid Association, and the Salvation Army, all came together to form the USO. Inaugurated Feb. 4, 1941 in New York, the USO was formed in order to provide support for servicemembers while they were on leave. The formation of the organization came at a crucial time as the country was about to enter World War II. Camp shows, which have become a mainstay of the USO, were formed a few months later and presented 428,521 shows between 1941 and 1947.

Over the years the USO grew and expanded internationally. With the advent of the Vietnam, Korean, and Gulf Wars, the group became efficient at operating in war zones, a place where their services are particularly needed. The USO even developed a mobile canteen unit equipped with videos, games and phones in order to reach servicemembers located in remote areas.

By 2004 the service had forty-nine centers in 22 countries and 31 airport locations.

Providing cultural tours, tours to the demilitarized zone, overnight trips, concert and opera tickets, the USO is fully equipped to provide Soldiers in Korea with the ability to explore the unique benefits being stationed there.

In addition to providing tours and cultural opportunities, the USO centers themselves also offer many amenities.

"We have the canteen, so that's one of the other things we do. We have free internet in the center just here in Area II. We have lots of stuff in Area I as well. We do a lot of programs and services just for the active military. We always try to get them to join in whatever programs we have coming up," said Charlotte Huntsman, director of marketing and programs at the Seoul USO.

Every month the USO distributes a calendar of the tours and shows being offered that month.

With tours varying from night excursions of Seoul to tours of the Demilitarized Zone, the USO offers outings ensure servicemembers can see every aspect of Korea.

"For the daily tours the martial arts show is the most popular one," said Frie Young, USO ticketing manager, "everyone who sees it says that there is something magical about it, that there is so much power about it."

For the overnight tours the one to Mt. Soark is the most popular. It's usually held in the fall, so that the participants can take full advantage of the leaves changing, she said.

Besides the tours and overnight trips, there is also the Reunion in Korea Program, which is unique to the Peninsula. The program helps servicemembers bring their families to Korea at a discounted price. Held in April, May, September and October, the package includes airplane

ticket, most meals, hotel, transportation to tour sites, and English speaking tour guides. The tourist attractions visited in this program are: the Demilitarized Zone/Panmunjom, the third North Korean infiltration tunnel, Observation Post Dora, a Seoul city tour, Changdok Palace, Secret Garden, the Korean War Museum and the Korean Folk Village.

According to Stanley Perry, executive director of the USO at Camp Kim, the most important benefit of the program is that it allows the servicemembers to see their family while they are stationed in Korea.

He went on to say the program allows lots of family members to leave the United States for the first time. It gives them a great chance to visit their family members stationed here and it also gives servicemembers who might not be able to leave their base normally, such as at Camp Casey, the opportunity to see the rest of Korea.

Besides directly benefitting servicemembers USO programs also reach out to surrounding communities.

The Good Neighbor Program was started by Gen. Leon LaPorte in conjunction with United States Forces Korea with the vision of involving members of the military with the communities they are living in.

The program is held about twice a month and Korean schoolchildren, usually from elementary schools, are teamed up with servicemembers who volunteer their time for the day. They meet at the USO and the servicemembers spend some time interacting with the children and answering their questions which can range from how old Soldiers are to what are their jobs. After the discussion the group has lunch in the USO canteen and then spend the rest of the afternoon bowling or playing miniature golf.

"What it does is it helps bring the community together with the U.S. military to give them a better understanding that the U.S. military is made up of people. That's the ambassadors for the country is the people," said Perry. "So it really does a good job of getting them together and showing the Korean student, as well as the teachers that come along with them, that the U.S. military is not all the bad news in the newspapers. They can be very friendly and helpful within the community," said Perry.

He went on to explain the affect that volunteering can have on the servicemembers.

"It gives them a real good feeling of contributing something to the Korean/American relationship and not just being here and serving in the military, but being part of the community," said Perry.

With almost 60 years of history serving the members of the military and their families, the USO has grown into a considerable organization that has, and is, continually fulfilling their mission, according to Perry.



Soldiers celebrate at a USO function at Camp Casey. (Below) Families gather at Collier Field House to say goodbye to Soldiers leaving for Iraq. *Courtesy photos*



(Above) Honorees are introduced during the USO's Six Star Salute. (Below) Miss USA visits 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers. *Courtesy photos*



19th TSC Transforms

By Master Sgt. Kimberly Williams
19th SC(E) PAO

The 19th Theater Support Command, commanded by Brig. Gen. (P) Timothy P. McHale, became the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Dec. 15 as part of the Army's on-going transformation.

To commemorate the name change, a small, internal ceremony was held at the 19th SC(E) Headquarters at Camp Henry, Daegu.

"Today you are taking part in the making of history," said McHale. "Team 19 has the distinction of being the Army's first TSC to transform into a sustainment command."

"Under this new structure, we will be able to provide the support necessary to sustain an Army anywhere we are needed," he said.

"As we make this next step of our journey, I am confident that we will continue to perform with excellence and set the standard for what an Expeditionary Sustainment Command should be," McHale said.

The 19th SC(E) was first activated on July 15, 1964 in Seoul and moved to Daegu in 1970 as part of the consolidation of Eighth Army Support and Depot Commands. Team 19, which provides logistical and common items support to the Korean theater of operations, is the largest, forward-deployed TSC in the U.S. Army.

All lineage and unit patches will remain unchanged at this time.

19th SC(E) Commander
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Submissions: Print and visual submissions of general interest to the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) are invited. Prospective contributors are encouraged to contact Sgt. Jimmy Norris, DSN 768-7660 or e-mail: (jimmy.norris@korea.army.mil).

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Let us know how we're doing! Go to <http://ice.disa.mil>, and select "Camp Henry" and "Information Management" to find our customer evaluation form.



Left: Girl Scouts from Camp Walker demonstrate a dance that they prepared for Thinking Day in front of Korean Girl Scouts from the Daegu Area. Below: Blaze Johnson, Girl Scout Troop 17, and Park, Nalea, Jindalea Troop 5, joke around while making jegi chagi, a Korean toy made of tissue paper. Photos by Sgt. Jimmy Norris



Sgt. Erica McCullom practices the Milyang Arirang Dance with Lim, Kyung Hui. Photo by Sgt. Jimmy Norris

Korean, American Girl Scouts celebrate Thinking Day

By Sgt. Jimmy Norris and Cpl. Park, Myung Joon
19th SC(E) PAO

Almost 200 Korean and American Girl Scouts gathered at Daebong Elementary School in Daegu Feb. 12 to celebrate the 60th Annual World Thinking Day, an event commemorating the mutual birthdays of Girl Scout founders Lord Baden Powell and his wife, Olave.

The event featured instruction in crafts, folk dancing and a sampling of some traditional Korean foods.

"Thinking Day is a day for Girl Scouts all over the country to come together and think about other Girl Scouts from around the world," said Lee Sang-hui, executive director of the Daegu Girl Scouts. "This being the 60th anniversary of the event, we wanted to incorporate the U.S. Girl Scouts from Camp Walker to create an interchange of friendship during the program."

The event began with a flag ceremony, followed by the Thinking Day Fund March, a traditional monetary contribution to the World Association of Girl Scouts. The Thinking Day Fund is used to spread scouting to girls throughout the world.

After the formal portion of the event, the Girl Scouts

formed small groups to make bracelets and jegi chagi, a Korean toy made of tissue paper that works like a hacky sack.

When the crafts were made, they broke for lunch, featuring several traditional Korean foods, including kimbab, hangwa, tuk and dukbokgi.

After lunch, the girls learned Milyang Arirang, a traditional Korean folk dance. They ended the event by exchanging gifts then holding a closing ceremony.

Many of the girls said they enjoyed the event.

"I really wanted to meet Americans at this event. This was a good chance to meet foreigners and I'm having a good time," said Hong Seon-jeong, 13, Jindallae Troop 1.

"We got to meet new people from a different culture. They taught us what they knew and we taught them what we knew. It was fun," said Amber De Los Santos, 12, Troop 45.

According to Lee, the Girl Scouts from both Korea and the United States are planning more joint activities in the future to promote cultural exchange.

The next planned activity, she said, will be a picnic in March. The girls will also get together in April to plant trees on Arbor Day.



Left: Pfc. Kenyaro Boyd ensures each chicken breast is perfectly prepared for the competition evaluators. Top: Spc. Jay Ruff puts the final touches on dessert. Right: Spc. Francisco Elias checks the seasoning.

COOKIN' WITH FIRE

KOREA'S TOP FIELD COOKS TAKE CULINARY SKILLS TO ARMY-LEVEL COMPETITION

Story and Photos by Cpl. Park, Myung Joon, 19th SC(E) PAO

Soldiers from the 19th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) competed against cooks from Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bliss, Texas and Germany to take the runner-up title for the Field Operations category in the Department of the Army Level Philip A. Connelly Awards Program Excellence in Army Food Service.

"We did a lot of training and got back to the basics for the correct way to cook. We worked really hard," said Spc. Jay Ruff, 19th SC(E). "We put in a lot of time, and the results proved it."

The Connelly Awards is a competition hosted by the U.S. Army and the International Food Service Executives Association. IFSEA and the Army evaluate and identify the best field kitchen, the best large garrison and best small garrison dining facilities annually.

The DA level Connelly Award in field operations determines who has

...it was common for **cooks** to have as little as three hours sleep during the **competition.**

the best field kitchen in the Army. All the major commands nominate one representative to compete. The evaluators from Fort Lee, Va., include one warrant officer, one sergeant major and one civilian who represents IFSEA.

The 501st CSG, as the representative of 19th SC(E), took several steps to get to this level.

"We started our evaluations back in May, and 501st won the 19th SC(E) evaluation. In July, they won the 8th U.S. Army evaluation, and now they are competing for the best in the Army," said Master Sgt. Norman T. Carter Jr., food manager, 19th SC(E), who was present

during the evaluation in October.

Carter said the 501st CSG improved dramatically since the last competition.

"They look much better than the last time when I watched. I

think they improved in setting up the operation site, food preparation, field sanitation and the food sanitation. They improved continuously over the past three months, and I think they look really great," said Carter.

It took quite a long time to be a competitor but it was worth it for the Soldiers.

"This competition gave me a chance to practice my [job]. In this kind of competition, I cooked in the Mobile Kitchen Trailer, learned how to set up camouflage and find positions," said Spc. Francisco Elias, 501st CSG.

He said that it was common for

cooks to have as little as three hours sleep during the competition. Carter said one of the things evaluators look for is creativity.

One of the tasks is for competitors to upgrade the rations they are given, without using anything special from garrison. They have to use only standard rations, also known as Unitized Group Rations. UGR is a set of three ration boxes. One of the boxes contains paper plates, cups, flatware, trash bags, etc. The second box contains rice, mashed potatoes, gravy mix, cans of vegetables and hot sauce. The last box, a frozen one, has meat. They have to be creative with the food they are given and make it into something Soldiers will enjoy eating.

"Competing at this level is very prestigious. We're already the champion on the 8th U.S. Army and the 19th SC(E) levels, so it's very prestigious to compete at this level," said Elias.

"We would like to have won first place, but we'll take runner-up out of the whole Army," said Ruff.



Sgt. 1st Class
Gary Ross in full
battle gear back
in 1984.

19th SC(E) Soldier recalls deadly day on the DMZ

Defector's dash sends forces into action

By Sgt. Jimmy Norris, 19th SC(E) PAO

“I guess the **most** important thing I can tell you about that day is it **changed** my total **outlook** on the Army.”

- Sgt. 1st Class Gary Ross

Nov. 23, 1984, during a tour of Korea's Demilitarized Zone conducted by North Korea, a Russian defector made a dash across the border into South Korea. What resulted was a 20-minute firefight that left at least four men dead and six wounded.

For most Soldiers in the active duty Army, that last firefight at Korea's Joint Security Area is little more than a historical footnote on the DMZ tour.

But for Sgt. 1st Class Gary Ross, Headquarters and Headquarter Company, 19th Theater Support Command, the memories of the day when he exchanged gunfire with North Korean Soldiers are still fresh in his mind.

Then a private assigned to 1st Platoon, Joint Security Force, Ross had joined the Army for the college incentives.

“My intention was to get the college money and get out,” he said.

But now, 21 years later, the grizzled training NCO says the firefight at the Joint Security Area changed his outlook on the Army and inspired him to make a career out of serving his country and the cause of freedom.

At the time of the incident, Ross's platoon was assigned

to Quick Reaction Force duties. As part of QRF training, the platoon had repeatedly drilled and practiced their skills at loading onto two-and-a-half-ton trucks and heading to the military demarcation line in response to any emergency that might arise, Ross said.

Therefore, when the alarm first sounded, many of the Soldiers in his platoon thought it was just another drill, he said.

“Once we were all loaded onto the trucks, all you could hear was everyone complaining and asking why they were practicing another drill when we were just about to eat,” Ross said.

Their moods changed, he said, when word came over the radio that 4th Platoon was engaged in a firefight with North Koreans, and the Soldiers of 1st Platoon were told to lock and load their weapons.

When they arrived at the site of the firefight, near the row of small buildings know as Conference Row, the platoon was broken down into three squads, each with an M-60 machine gun, Ross said.

One squad was told to secure the high ground at the east end of Conference Row. The other two squads, one of which Ross was a part, were told to approach Confer-

ence Row by means of traveling overwatch, a systematic method of movement in which Soldiers advance one at a time toward an objective while their teammates cover them from behind.

As they were traveling, they came into contact with the Soviet defector, whose mad dash to freedom had started the incident, Ross said. He was turned over to the JSF company commander and removed from the immediate area.

“By this time, fire was being increased by the enemy in pursuit of the defector,” Ross said.

In response to increased fire from the enemy, one squad moved to secure the North Koreans' left flank.

“By doing this, we cut off the enemy and denied them from being able to use the buildings for cover,” Ross explained.

Shortly after being cut off, the North Koreans surrendered.

The Joint Security Force was then ordered to cease fire and to allow the North Koreans to recover their dead and wounded.

“I felt proud because we had performed our duties with courage and discipline,” Ross said. “But those feelings changed when we found out that one of our own, Cpl. Jang

[Myung-gee] had been killed. Everybody's mood changed. We went from being all motivated because we'd just [fought well], to realizing we'd just lost someone.

“Even though Cpl. Jang was in a different platoon, I still knew who he was,” he said. “He was motivated, well-trained, disciplined and just like all the other KATUSAs at the JSA - he was my friend.”

The U.S./Republic of Korea alliance forces lost one Soldier during that firefight. The North Koreans lost three.

For Ross, the incident changed his entire attitude toward military service.

“That fear of the unknown was gone,” he said. “You don't really know how you'll react in combat until you've been there.”

Following his first assignment in Korea, Ross went on to duty stations in Hawaii, Nebraska, Texas and Washington. But, he said his time at the JSA will always have special meaning to him.

“I guess the most important thing I can tell you about that day is it changed my total outlook on the Army,” Ross said. “In the past 22 years, I've been stationed all over the world, and I can honestly say that JSA was the best assignment I have ever had.”



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